

Common Elements of Fairy Tales

- Do NOT need to include fairies.
- Set in the past—usually significantly long ago. May be presented as historical fact from the past.
- Include fantasy, supernatural or make-believe aspects.
- Typically incorporate clearly defined good characters and evil characters.
- Involves magic elements, which may be magical people, animals, or objects. Magic may be positive or negative.
- May include objects, people, or events in threes.
- Focus the plot on a problem or conflict that needs to be solved.
- Often have happy endings, based on the resolution of the conflict or problem.
- Usually teach a lesson or demonstrate values important to the culture.